

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for Baltimore County and Tradepoint Atlantic's (TPA) grant application under the newly-established Port Infrastructure Development Program for seaport-related projects.

Located at Sparrows Point on the Chesapeake Bay in Baltimore County, Maryland, TPA is a 3,300-acre multimodal global logistics and maritime industrial site leveraging the Port of Baltimore's unique combination of deep-water berths, rail infrastructure, and interstate highway connectivity. TPA is in the process of revitalizing the waterfront parcel, once home to a historic steel mill, into a state-of-the-art global trade and logistics center. With Sparrows Point at full operational capacity, TPA expects to generate 10,000 permanent skilled construction, manufacturing, and distribution jobs at the site.

Funding from the Port Infrastructure Development Program will provide essential support for the infrastructure upgrades needed for TPA to increase shipping capacity and operational efficiency. Specifically, TPA has informed us that it intends to use funding for upgrading the port's bulk and liquids import and export terminals for more reliable transferring of materials, including constructing of a rail loop, storage domes for bulk dry storage, and conveyor systems.

Additional terminal maintenance activities will include addressing the port's finger pier, the heavy-duty road network, primary utilities, and other facility developments. An additional facet of the 2020 grant application will include improvements to the onsite rail (*i.e.*, short rail) with updates to existing track and turnouts and onsite switches for better handling of bulk materials and increased efficiency and safety. Combined, these improvements should enhance TPA's ability to handle new types of commodities that support manufacturing and other industries in the region, helping to spur economic growth throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

We support TPA's project in Baltimore County, and we ask that you give full consideration to the Baltimore County and TPA application to the Port Infrastructure Development Program for

their efforts in building an exemplary public-private partnership for interconnected trade and transportation logistics.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator